TRANSCRIPT—ROY LEE LYLES

Interviewee: Roy Lee Lyles

Interviewer: Sharon Fahrer

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Transcriber: Alice Helms

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Sharon Fahrer: Tell me your name and your birthdate and where you were born.

Roy Lee Lyles: My name is Roy Lee Lyles. I was born in Asheville, North Carolina. July 17, 1950.

SF: My birthday is in July too. What was it like growing up in Asheville? What other schools did you go to?

RLL: I went to Hill Street, Livingston Street, Stephens-Lee, South French Broad.

SF: What neighborhood did you actually live in?

RLL: Hillcrest, Grove Street, Flint Street.

SF: Oh, I live in Montford now. So, were you involved in, did you know about Stephens-Lee before you went there? Did you go to the ballgames, did you—.

RLL: Yes, I did.

SF: —know some of the teachers?

RLL: I knew all the teachers before I went there.

SF: Did you have older brothers and sisters that went there?

RLL: Yes, all four of my sisters graduated from Stephens-Lee.

SF: So where did the majorettes, besides being in the holiday parade, what else did they do, the majorettes?

RLL: They marched, Christmas Parade, all kind of parades. Out of town, football games out of town. They were in parades. Stephens-Lee.

SF: How did you feel when you saw the majorettes?

RLL: I felt good. My sisters. Every year one of my sisters was a majorette. Two of them were majorettes at the same time.

SF: Which years was that?

RLL: Sixty-seven, sixty-eight, sixty-nine. All the way up to 1970.

SF: So sixty-eight wasn't at Stephens-Lee, that was at South French Broad?

RLL: One of my sisters was a majorette over there. It started in sixty-five, my sister was a majorette in sixty-six.

SF: What was her name?

RLL: Carolyn Lyles and Sandra Lyles.

SF: Did you play any sports at Stephens-Lee?

RLL: No, I didn't. I was a wild man. I was out there in the street cheering for them.

SF: What did you feel like was the difference between going to Stephens-Lee and going to South French Broad?

RLL: I didn't go to Stephens-Lee but one year and then I went to South French Broad. I liked Stephens-Lee better.

SF: Why did you like it better?

RLL: It was just better.

SF: When you went to South French Broad, was it already integrated?

RLL: No, not yet. The next two years it was. No, the next four years it was.

SF: So when you went to South French Broad, it was not integrated.

RLL: Not yet.

SF: What was the difference, though? Why did you like Stephens-Lee better than South French Broad? Was it the teachers? Was it the kids? Was it the building?

RLL: At South French Broad, you had sophomores and freshman. You had sophomores and juniors at Stephens-Lee. It was way different. All the teams were better over here. Sports were better. I guess it was a better school.

SF: What did it feel like, wasn't it an old school? Stephens-Lee.

RLL: It was old, but it was Stephens-Lee.

SF: Did your parents go to Stephens-Lee?

RLL: They sure did.

SF: Do you know what years they graduated?

RLL: My mom was a majorette over there too.

SF: Do you think that's why your sisters became majorettes?

RLL: They became majorettes because they were fine, they just had the body.

SF: Were you involved with the band at all?

RLL: The band was all right. The band was ( ).

SF: Did you have a favorite sports figure, did you like basketball better than baseball, better than football.

RLL: I liked all of them the same.

SF: Did you have any favorite athletes that you rooted for on those teams?

RLL: ( ).

SF: By the time you came to high school, where did you live, what neighborhood?

RLL: Flint Street.

SF: What was Montford like then?

RLL: Same as Flint Street.

SF: Was it integrated?

RLL: What do you mean integrated?

SF: African-Americans and White people living on the same block. Did you know your neighbors?

RLL: I knew most of the people on Flint Street.

SF: Did you know the Maps?

RLL: Yes, I knew everybody ( ).

SF: Did you know the Irbys?

RLL: Yes.

SF: Did you know Odell?

RLL: Yes. Odells still stays down there.

SF: Odell's a friend of mine.

RLL: Who isn't?

SF: I love Odell. This big tree fell down in his back yard, and when I say big—. You saw it? Well, Odell has just about anything you could need, right? Did the Irbys live there when you lived there, on Flint Street?

RLL: I'm not sure. ( ) Washington D.C. in sixty-seven. Sixty-seven I left.

SF: If you were going to tell somebody like a younger person today about Stephens-Lee, what would you tell them? How would you describe it?

RLL: Only thing I can tell them is nothing you don't already know.

SF: How do you know that? Everybody has their own memories. Everybody has their own feelings about things. You may not feel the same way as somebody else felt.

RLL: ( ).

SF: Okay, thanks for sharing it with us. I appreciate you coming down here. If you want to look at the wall, there's some of the teachers that were at Stephens-Lee in the time that you were there. Over here. Maybe you find a favorite teacher.

RLL: ( ).

SF: Did these teachers go over to South French Broad with you guys?

RLL: Some of them. Miss Harris. Miss Lucy.

SF: What did she teach?

RLL: Math. ( ). That's a good teacher there.

SF: He was also the coach, right?

RLL: Yes.

SF: I met his son at one of the other reunions.

RLL: Miss Hall, she stayed over on Grove Street. We stayed over there, right up the street, two houses over.

SF: Did she come over to your house? No? Okay. Lonnie Burton?

RLL: He was a teacher first and then he made Principal. A teacher over at South French Broad. Mr. Haith.

SF: Did you have him for a teacher?

RLL: Yes. Industrial Arts.

SF: Was she married to Mr. Burton, this lady?

RLL: I do believe so. ( ). He taught the band. ( ). Music teacher. ( ).

SF: Was he the principal of Stephens-Lee when you were here?

RLL: ( ).

SF: Did people get in trouble and have to go to the principal?

RLL: It was just like any other school.

SF: Did you ever get in trouble and have to go to the principal's office?

RLL: ( ). But the best principal was Miss Lee at Hill Street School. Do you know her?

SF: No.

RLL: Everybody ( ). She taught ( ) at Hill Street School. ( ). Miss Lee.

SF: Is she the one that Stephens-Lee is named after?

RLL: Her name was Miss Lee. I forget her ( ).

SF: Did you have a favorite teacher?

RLL: At Stephens-Lee?

SF: Yes.

RLL: No, I didn't come here but one year.

SF: What kind of courses did you take? Business courses or Shop?

RLL: I can't remember. Mr. Cowan. He was my teacher at Hill Street and then he came over here. ( ).

SF: Well, thanks, for sharing. We appreciate it and if you have any photographs or anything, we'd love to scan them and put them in the collection

END OF INTERVIEW.